

# **NEW SHOREHAM SCHOOL COMMITTEE**

## **Block Island School**

**June 21, 2010**

**7:00 p.m.**

**The New Shoreham School Committee met in open session on Monday, June 21, 2010, in the media center of the Block Island School. Chair William Padien called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. The following members were present: Annie Hall, Sean McGarry, and William Padien. Shea Butcher and Richard Tretheway were not in attendance. Robert Hicks was also present.**

### **Approval of Minutes**

**A motion (Hall, Padien) to approve the minutes of the meeting held on May 17, 2010, as presented carried with a vote of 3-0.**

**A motion (Hall, Padien) to approve the minutes of the meeting held on June 8, 2010, as presented carried with a vote of 3-0.**

**A motion (Padien, Hall) to approve the executive session minutes of the meeting held on May 17, 2010, as written carried with a vote of 3-0.**

### **Reports**

**William Padien reported that it was a beautiful day for the June 12**

graduation ceremony, which went well. He hopes to have the field work completed before next year's graduation.

Sean McGarry stated that he thought the lobbyist did a great job keeping the School Committee informed via e-mail regarding the funding formula, which was approved recently by the legislature.

Mr. Hicks submitted the 2009-2010 enrollment projections as developed by New England School Development Council (NESDEC), stressing that they are projections and not predictions. The projection forecasts that the K-12 enrollment will shrink to 97 students by 2019-2020 from the present 126 pupils, but the economy and family choices will determine the numbers.

Mr. Hicks submitted a memorandum regarding the PBGR visit conducted by representatives from RIDE this spring, the Commissioner's letter indicating work accomplished and work remaining to be completed, a letter to parents from the Commissioner, and the work plan to accomplish the tasks before fall 2011. If tasks are not completed in this timeframe, the Board of Regents will deny us the right to hand out diplomas. Many of our staff members, including principals John Canole and Karen Kurzman will attend training sessions to align curriculum and assessments to state GSEs. A validation committee will review and approve all tasks before the students use them and ensure a standardized scoring rubric for all students is included. In addition, the PBGR policy will

need to be amended to include post-secondary planning, updated to include the NECAP assessments in the graduation decision, and reviewed regularly for program effectiveness.

Mr. Hicks reported that the fund balance should be approximately \$130,000 at the end of this fiscal year, which is about \$23,000 less than projected in March. However, \$23,000 has already been earmarked for the replacement of the skylight above the music room. Another \$60,000 will be used for capital projects. A motion (Padien, Hall) to accept the fiscal report through May 31, 2010, as presented carried with a vote of 3-0.

Mr. Hicks handed out the administrators' summer schedule, which listed the areas for which each principal will be responsible, and pointed out that at least one administrator will be in the building one day every week. All of them, including Bill Anderson, will be in the office on August 16 for planning purposes.

### **Old Business**

A motion (Padien, McGarry) to approve Policy GK: Safe and Peaceful School Community as written carried with a vote of 3-0.

Mr. Hicks updated the School Committee on the 2010-2011 budget, stating that the largest uncertainty is in special education. Three students who receive substantial special education services will not be back in September. However, one student will incur a large tuition

expense (\$125,000) for which the district is responsible, but up to 60 percent can be reimbursed through Medicaid. We have never sought Medicaid reimbursement before, but contracts are now in place to allow us to do so. Mr. Hicks originally planned to recover some of the money by eliminating two teacher assistant positions based on the assignments with the departing students, but staff members expressed a lot of concern about covering all of the extra duties, especially since one teacher assistant was not replaced when she resigned early in the 2009-2010 school year. He discussed the REAP funds (federal rural education grant), which allows a great amount of flexibility, with the technology committee. The plan is to reallocate the money from the expansion of our technology program to keep one of the teacher assistants, which would then give us a bit of flexibility if any new students are identified with special needs. Mr. Hicks recommended eliminating one teacher assistant position and funding the other through the REAP grant; this will be addressed later under New Business.

A motion (Padien, Hall) to reaffirm the \$15,000 extension contract for Karen Kurzman for professional development services as approved at the June 8, 2010, meeting carried with a vote of 3-0.

Mr. Hicks reported that with the passing of Janette Batchelder, the class of 2010 requested that the money that would have been spent on their senior dinner (\$55 per pupil - \$220) be donated to “Yawkey

**Seven” c/o Massachusetts General Hospital in memory of Janette as requested by her family. A motion (McGarry, Padien) to donate \$220 to Yawkey Seven in memory of Janette Batchelder carried with a vote of 3-0.**

**The 2010-2011 school calendar was updated to include the additional teacher work day (Thursday, September 2) as required by the new teachers’ contract. This added day does not affect the students. A motion (Padien, McGarry) to approve the 2010-2011 school calendar as presented carried with a vote of 3-0.**

### **New Business**

**Monty Stover was present to highlight and explain the school’s dental program/contract with the Block Island Medical Center. He stated that letters are not sent home to every parent, but to those with children in grades K-5, grade 8, and those new to the district. The State of Rhode Island requires the annual screening of children in grades K-5 and one screening between grades 6-10, which is why they have chosen grade 8. A motion (McGarry, Padien) to authorize William Padien to sign the dental contract for the 2010-2011 school year in the amount of \$7500 carried with a vote of 3-0.**

**A contract agreement for Child Outreach was received from the Southern Rhode Island Collaborative. A motion (Padien, Hall) to approve the contract and authorize Marsha Gutierrez to sign it on behalf of the School Committee carried with a vote of 3-0.**

**A motion (Padien, Hall) to accept with great regret the resignation of John Warfel from his position as technology teacher, which he has held for 29 years, carried with a vote of 3-0.**

**A motion (Padien, McGarry) to consent to the appointment of Victoria Carson as an extended school year special education teacher for four hours per day/five days per week for eight weeks carried with a vote of 3-0.**

**A motion (Padien, Hall) to consent to the appointment of Kathleen Mello as an extended school year special education teacher for four hours per day/three days per week for six weeks carried with a vote of 3-0.**

**A motion (Padien, Hall) to consent to the appointment of Kathleen Schlenz as the extended school year occupational therapist for approximately three hours per week for six weeks carried with a vote of 3-0.**

**A motion (Padien, Hall) to consent to the appointment of Summer Riker as the extended school year school social worker for approximately three hours per week for eight weeks carried with a vote of 3-0.**

**A motion (Padien, Hall) to consent to the reappointment of William**

**Anderson as the special education director for the 2010-2011 school year and to increase his salary by 1.3 percent carried with a vote of 2-1 with Sean McGarry voting in the negative.**

**A motion (Padien, Hall) to consent to the reappointment of Elizabeth Gomes as the guidance counselor for the 2010-2011 school year and to increase her salary by 1.3 percent carried with a vote of 3-0.**

**A motion (Padien, Hall) to consent to the reappointment of Robert Hicks as the superintendent for the 2010-2011 fiscal year and to increase his salary by 1.3 percent carried with a vote of 3-0.**

**A motion (Padien, McGarry) to consent to the reappointment of Patricia Balles as an administrative assistant for the 2010-2011 fiscal year and to increase her salary by three percent carried with a vote of 3-0.**

**A motion (Padien, McGarry) to consent to the reappointment of Pamela Buol as a teacher assistant for the 2010-2011 school year and to increase her salary by three percent carried with a vote of 3-0.**

**A motion (Padien, Hall) to consent to the reappointment of Amy Doran Couet as a full-time custodian for the 2010-2011 fiscal year and to increase her hourly wage to \$14.35 to move her to the mid-range of the pay grade (a total increase of five percent) carried with a vote of 3-0.**

**A motion (Padien, Hall) to consent to the reappointment of Amy Doran Couet as the maintenance supervisor for the 2010-2011 fiscal year with the stipend to remain at \$10,000 per year carried with a vote of 2-1 with Sean McGarry voting in the negative.**

**A motion (Padien, Hall) to consent to the reappointment of Lynne Cunningham as the office manager for the 2010-2011 fiscal year and to increase her salary by three percent carried with a vote of 3-0.**

**A motion (Padien, Hall) to consent to the reappointment of Amy Dugan as a teacher assistant for the 2010-2011 school year and to increase her salary by three percent carried with a vote of 3-0.**

**A motion (Padien, Hall) to consent to the reappointment of Stacy Ferraro as a teacher assistant for the 2010-2011 school year and to increase her salary by three percent carried with a vote of 3-0.**

**A motion (Padien, Hall) to consent to the reappointment of Marsha Gutierrez as the administrative assistant to the superintendent for the 2010-2011 fiscal year and to increase her salary by three percent carried with a vote of 3-0. Per her contract Mrs. Gutierrez will also receive a longevity stipend.**

**A motion (Padien, Hall) to consent to the reappointment of Bernice Johnson as a part-time custodian for the 2010-2011 fiscal year and to**



**increase her salary by three percent carried with a vote of 3-0.**

**A motion (McGarry, Padien) to consent to the reappointment of Lisa Schaller Robb as a teacher assistant for 2010-2011 school year and to increase her salary by three percent carried with a vote of 3-0.**

**A motion (McGarry, Padien) to not renew the appointment of Kelsey McRae as a teacher assistant for the 2010-2011 school year carried with a vote of 3-0.**

### **Calendar of Events**

**The next regular meeting of the School Committee is scheduled for 7:00 p.m. on Monday, July 26, 2010.**

### **Correspondence**

**Various pieces of correspondence were forwarded for School Committee information.**

### **Adjournment**

**A motion (Padien, McGarry) at 8:21 p.m. to adjourn carried with a vote of 3-0.**

**Marsha L. Gutierrez, Clerk**

**Date approved: July 26, 2010**